

COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE COURTS

Date Action Required:	Type of Action Required:	Subject:
September 11, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	MAG VICTIM SERVICES PROVIDER INVENTORY AND MAP

FROM: Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Protocol Evaluation Project

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DISCUSSION: The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Protocol Evaluation Project engages community partners in assessing arrest and prosecution protocols for domestic violence crimes. With the help of partners in law enforcement, prosecution and victim advocacy, the project evaluates existing protocols and develops training resources to ensure best practices are implemented in the field. The goal of the project is to address domestic violence crimes in a manner that results in more victims being safe and more abusers held accountable.

Victims of domestic violence need help accessing services and navigating the criminal justice system. During MAG focus group discussions, victims reported they did not know where to get help and are not knowledgeable about the court process. They noted the importance of having someone to help guide them. Connecting with victim advocates made a tremendous difference in their ability to get help and pursue justice through the criminal justice system. There are a variety of victim services provided by a myriad of agencies. This level of diversity points to the need for an inventory of victim service providers and a map of their locations. The MAG Victim Services Provider Inventory and Interactive Web Map will help connect victim advocates while ensuring victims receive the help they need to be safe and the guidance necessary to pursue justice.

The Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project is supported by STOP Violence Against Women Grant funding through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The project has resulted in development of the first regional misdemeanor domestic violence protocol model. The model consists of 28 recommended protocols for addressing these crimes. The project has expanded to include assessment of misdemeanor and felony-level protocols. More information may be accessed on the MAG website at www.azmag.gov.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Only.